CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for improving the performance of a decoder~~, comprising:

receiving and demodulating a preamble at a first station;

determining an energy value for a transmission from [[a]] the first station to a second station, wherein the energy value is based on the preamble ~~information received and processed at the first station, the decoder residing in the second station~~;

forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value, an identity of a target destination of a data payload, a transmission rate of a subpacket, a number of subpackets to carry a full amount of the data payload, and timing information of the arrival of the subpackets; and

transmitting the message to the second station,

wherein the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and (1) determining an energy value includes locating the energy value in a look-up table and selecting an index value representing the energy value, and (2) forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value includes forming a message including the index value.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the message comprises positioning the message in a preamble.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the message comprises positioning the message in a subpacket.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the message comprises positioning the message between a preamble and a subpacket.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first station is a base station and the second station is a remote station.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first station is a remote station and the second station is a base station.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for improving the performance of a decoder~~, comprising:

means for receiving and demodulating a preamble at a first station;

means for determining an energy value for a transmission from [[a]] the first station to a second station, wherein the energy value is based on the preamble ~~information received and processed at the first station, the decoder residing in the second station~~;

means for forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value, an identity of a target destination of a data payload, a transmission rate of a subpacket, a number of subpackets to carry a fill amount of the data payload, and timing information of the arrival of the subpackets; and

means for transmitting the message to the second station,

wherein the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and (1) the means for determining an energy value locates the energy value in a look-up table and selects an index value representing the energy value, and (2) the means for forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value forms a message indicating the index value.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions thereon that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to: ~~for performing the steps of:~~

receive and demodulate a preamble at a first station;

determine[[ing]] an energy value for a transmission from [[a]] the first station to a second station, wherein the energy value is based on the preamble ~~information received and processed at the first station, a decoder residing in the second station~~;

form[[ing]] a message carrying an indicator of the energy value, an identity of a target destination of a data payload, a transmission rate of a subpacket, a number of subpackets to carry a full amount of the data payload, and timing information of the arrival of the subpackets; and

transmit[[ting]] the message to the second station,

wherein the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and (1) ~~the step of~~ determining an energy value includes locating the energy value in a look-up table and selecting an index value representing the energy value, and (2) ~~the step of~~ forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value includes forming a message including the index value.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for improving the performance of a decoder~~, comprising:

a processor operable to demodulate a preamble received at a first station;

a transmission power control unit for determining an energy value for a transmission from [[a]] the first station to a second station, wherein the energy value is based on the preamble ~~information received and processed at the first station, the decoder residing in the second station~~; and

a channel element coupled to the transmission power control unit for forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value, an identity of a target destination of a data payload, a transmission rate of a subpacket, a number of subpackets to carry a fill amount of the data payload, and timing information of the arrival of the subpackets and for transmitting the message to the second station,

wherein the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and (1) determining an energy value includes locating the energy value in a look-up table and selecting an index value representing the energy value, and (2) forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value includes forming a message including the index value.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the transmitting the message comprises positioning the message in a preamble.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the transmitting the message comprises positioning the message in a subpacket.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the transmitting the message comprises positioning the message between a preamble and a subpacket.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the first station is a base station and the second station is a remote station.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the first station is a remote station and the second station is a base station.

17. (Currently Amended) A base station ~~for improving the performance of a decoder~~, comprising:

a processor operable to demodulate a preamble received at a first station;

a transmission power control unit for determining an energy value for a transmission from [[a]] the first station to a second station, wherein the energy value is based on the preamble ~~information received and processed at the first station, the decoder residing in the second station~~;

a channel element coupled to the transmission power control unit for forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value, an identity of the target destination of a data payload, a transmission rate of a subpacket, a number of subpackets to carry the full amount of the data payload, and timing information of the arrival of the subpackets; and

a transmitter adapted to transmit the message in a forward link channel to the remote stations,

wherein the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and (1) determining an energy value includes locating the energy value in a look-up table and selecting an index value representing the energy value, and (2) forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value includes forming a message including the index value.

18. (Currently Amended) A remote station ~~for improving the performance of a decoder~~, comprising:

a processor operable to demodulate a preamble received at the remote station;

a transmission power control unit for determining an energy value for a transmission to a base station, wherein the energy value is based on the preamble ~~information received and processed at the remote station, the decoder residing in the base station~~;

a channel element coupled to the transmission power control unit for forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value, an identity of a target destination of a data payload, a transmission rate of a subpacket, a number of subpackets to carry a fill amount of the data payload, and timing information of the arrival of the subpackets; and

a transmitter adapted to transmit the message in a reverse link channel to the base station,

wherein the energy value is a traffic-to-pilot ratio and (1) determining an energy value includes locating the energy value in a look-up table and selecting an index value representing the energy value, and (2) forming a message carrying an indicator of the energy value includes forming a message including the index value.

19. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving by the first station a packet that includes a message, a data subpacket, and the preamble.

20. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein the packet is received by the first station via a traffic channel.